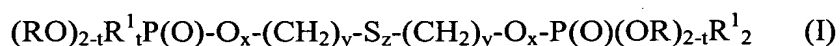


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A compound corresponding to the formula:



in which:

- R represents a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aryl, a trialkylsilyl, a trialkylamino or an alkali metal;
- R^1 represents an alkyl or an aryl;
- x is 0 or 1;
- y is an integer from 1 to 22;
- $z \geq 3$;
- t is 0 or 1.

2. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

3. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is trialkylsilyl group R'_3Si- in which the R' substituents represent identical or different alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

4. (Presently Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is a trialkylamino group R''_3N- in which the R'' substituents represent identical or different alkyl groups having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is an alkali

metal ~~selected~~ ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of Na and K.

6. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein $x = 0$.
7. (Presently Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 6, corresponding to the formula
 $(\text{RO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_z-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OR})_2$ (II).
8. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 6, corresponding to the formula $(\text{RO})\text{R}^1\text{P}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_z-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OR})\text{R}'$ (IV).
9. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein $x = 1$.
10. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 9, corresponding to the formula $(\text{RO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_z-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{O}-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OR})_2$ (III).
11. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 9, corresponding to the formula $(\text{RO})\text{R}^1\text{P}(\text{O})-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_z-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{O}-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OR})\text{R}^1$ (V).
12. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein z is on average equal to 4.
13. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms or an aryl radical chosen from the phenyl, benzyl or tolyl radicals.
14. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein y is an integer from 2 to 4.
15. (Previously Presented) A composite material comprising an elastomeric matrix and an inorganic filler, wherein the material comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1 as a coupling agent.

16. (Previously Presented) The material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inorganic filler is an oxide, a hydroxide, a carbonate or a silicoaluminate.

17. (Currently Amended) The material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inorganic filler is a metallic material selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of steels, aluminum and copper.

18. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which each of the R groups is an alkyl Ra and $z = 4$, wherein:

- during a first stage, the trialkoxyphosphonate $P(ORa)_3$ (VI) is reacted with the dibromoalkane $Br-(CH_2)_y-Br$ (VII) at a temperature of the order of $140^\circ C$ in order to obtain $Br-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ (VIII),
- during a second stage, the phosphonate $Br-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ (VIII) is reacted with Na_2S_4 under reflux of the methanol in order to obtain the compound $(RaO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ (IIa).

19. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which each of the R groups is a trialkylsilyl R'_3Si- , comprising reacting the compound $(RaO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ (IIa) with a trialkylsilyl bromide R'_3SiBr in a 1/4 molar ratio in order to obtain the compound (IIb) $(R'_3SiO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OSiR'_3)_2$.

20. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which R is H, comprising hydrolyzing a compound $(Ra)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ in which Ra is an alkyl or hydrolyzing or alcoholyzing a compound $(R'_3SiO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OSiR'_3)_2$.

21. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 10 in which R represents H, wherein:

- during a first stage, $P(O)Cl_3$ is reacted with $HO(CH_2)_yCl$ in stoichiometric proportions in order to obtain the compound $Cl(CH_2)_yOP(O)Cl_2$;

- during a second stage, the compound $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OP}(\text{O})\text{Cl}_2$ is hydrolyzed in order to obtain the compound $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OPO}_3\text{H}_2$;
- during a third stage, $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OPO}_3\text{H}_2$ is reacted with Na_2S_4 under reflux of the methanol and then an ion exchange is carried out in order to obtain the compound $(\text{HO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_z-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{O}-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OH})_2$.